



PRESS RELEASE

Twenty-two seed companies selected for Access to Seeds Index for Eastern & Southern Africa

A new study by the Access to Seeds Index evaluated 73 seed companies across 19 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. This resulted in the selection of 22 companies best positioned to support the productivity of smallholder farmers and the SDGs. Early 2019 the second Access to Seeds Index for Eastern & Southern Africa will be published, announcing who is the leading seed company in supporting smallholder farmer productivity in the region.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 10 July 2018 – The Access to Seeds Index, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the government of the Netherlands, aims to encourage seed companies to step up their efforts to support smallholder farmer productivity. “By benchmarking seed companies, the index gives credit to companies that show leadership and encourages others to follow their example,” says Ido Verhagen, executive director of the Access to Seeds Index. “It also provides valuable information for governments, research institutes and donors interested in building partnerships with seed companies.”

The second Access to Seeds Index for Eastern & Southern Africa will expand its scope further into Southern Africa. Seven more countries are included and as a result five more companies are included in the ranking. Sixteen of the twenty-two selected companies originate from the region itself. An interesting finding is the countries with multiple companies represented in the benchmark, including South Africa and Uganda, both with four, and Kenya with three companies.

In 2016 the first Access to Seeds Index for Eastern Africa showed small differences between companies, with the exception of East-West Seed whose performance significantly exceeded its peers because of their smallholder-centric business model. In early 2019, the second Access to Seeds Index for Eastern & Southern Africa will show which seed company is taking the lead now ‘in supporting smallholders in Eastern and Southern Africa’. Twenty-two companies have been nominated; the selection was based on company business models, track record and regional presence. The selection process was overseen by a committee of six experts from the region.

“Smallholder farmers need to not only produce more food, but at the same time adapt their agricultural practices to changing weather conditions caused by climate change. By improving access to quality seeds, seed companies can make a vital contribution in supporting smallholder farmers with overcoming this challenge,” says Mr. Verhagen.

Improving the productivity of smallholder farmers is one of the main targets on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals agenda (SDGs). By measuring the seed industry’s performance, the Access to Seeds Index aims to contribute to achieving these goals.

Note for editors

Background information about the Access to Seeds Index:

- Link to the [Methodology for the 2019 Access to Seeds Index](#) including an animation with an introduction to the Access to Seeds Index
- Link to the [Landscaping study for the Regional Access to Seeds Index for Eastern & Southern Africa](#)
- Below you will find a list of the 22 selected seed companies in Eastern and Southern Africa and an overview of the identified leading seed companies per country.

For more information, please contact Anke van Bruggen: avanbruggen@accesstoseeds.org



Access to Seeds
Index

Regional Index for Eastern & Southern Africa

	Company	Country	Seed portfolio	Ownership
1	Capstone Seeds	ZAF	Field crops	Private
2	Darusalam Seed Co	SOM	Field crops	Private
3	Demeter Seed	MWI	Field crops	Private
4	DowDuPont	USA	Field crops	Listed
5	East African Seed	KEN	Field crops & vegetables	Private
6	East-West Seed	THA	Vegetables	Private
7	Ethiopian Seed Enterprise	ETH	Field crops	State owned
8	Equator Seed Co	UGA	Field crops	Private
9	FICA Seeds	UGA	Field crops & vegetables	Private
10	Hygrotech	ZAF	Vegetables	Private
11	Kenya Seed Company	KEN	Field crops & vegetables	State owned
12	Kenya Highland Seed	KEN	Vegetables	Private
13	Klein Karoo Seed Marketing	ZAF	Field crops & vegetables	Private
14	Monsanto	USA	Field crops & vegetables	Listed
15	NASECO	UGA	Field crops	Private
16	Pop Vriend Seeds	NLD	Vegetables	Private
17	Seed Co	ZWE	Field crops & vegetables	Listed
18	Starke Ayres	ZAF	Vegetables	Private
19	Syngenta (ChemChina)	CHE	Field crops & vegetables	Private
20	Technisem	FRA	Vegetables	Private
21	Victoria Seeds	UGA	Field crops & vegetables	Private
22	Zamseed	ZAM	Field crops & vegetables	Private



Access to Seeds Index



Access to Seeds Index

- Companies selected for the 2019 Access to Seeds Index
- Companies that did not meet the selection criteria

1. Angola

- Novagrolider
- Jardins da Yoba
- Kambondo
- Valagro
- Vrelo

2. Botswana

- Seed Co
- Cross Corn (Capstone Seeds)
- Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB)
- Feed Seeds
- Gear Force

3. Burundi

- COPROSEBU
- COPROSEBU-Nyuganira
- ISABU
- SRDI
- NASECO
- AVET
- UHACOM

4. Ethiopia

- Oromia Seed Enterprise
- Ethiopian Seed Enterprise
- South Seed Enterprise
- DowDuPont
- Nono Agricultural Development PLC

5. Kenya

- Kenya Seed Company
- Western Seed Company
- Monsanto
- East African Seed
- Kenya Highland Seed

6. Lesotho

- Lehakoe Seed Company
- DowDuPont
- Seed Co
- Monsanto
- Capstone Seeds

7. Madagascar

- SCAA (Société Commerciale et Agricole d'Ambohimangakely)
- CTAS (Centre Technique de l'Agroécologie du Sud/Ambovombe)
- Enterprise DOM
- VALY Prosem
- CMS SAKAY
- Technisem

10. Namibia

- Northern Namibia Farmers Seed Grower Cooperative (NNFSGC)
- Katima Farmers Seed Producer Cooperative (KAFASEPCO)
- Likorerere

11. Rwanda

- Kenya Seed Company
- Seed Co
- DowDuPont
- Tubura Seed
- Rijk Zwaan (Holland Green Tech)

13. South Africa

- DowDuPont
- Monsanto
- Klein Karoo Seed Marketing
- Capstone Seeds
- Starke Ayres
- Hygrotech

14. South Sudan

- South Farmers
- Century Seeds Co
- GIAS
- Magwi Seeds Company (MASCO)
- Seed Grow

15. Swaziland

- Seed Co
- DowDuPont
- Lake Agriculture
- Tshala Seed Enterprise
- Capstone Seeds

16. Tanzania

- Seed Co
- Monsanto
- Beula Seed Company and Consultant
- IFFA Seed Company
- East African Seed
- East-West Seed
- Pop Vriend Seeds

17. Uganda

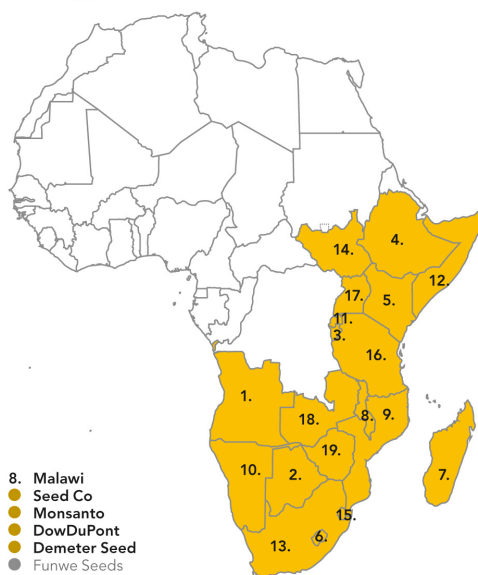
- NASECO
- FICA Seeds
- Equator Seed Co
- Pearl Seeds
- Victoria Seeds

18. Zambia

- Seed Co
- Zamseed
- DowDuPont
- Syngenta (ChemChina)
- Monsanto
- AfriSeed
- Kamano
- Klein Karoo Seed Marketing

19. Zimbabwe

- Seed Co
- DowDuPont
- Klein Karoo Seed Marketing
- Agri Seeds
- Starke Ayres
- East-West Seed



8. Malawi

- Seed Co
- Monsanto
- DowDuPont
- Demeter Seed
- Funwe Seeds

9. Mozambique

- Phoenix Seed
- DowDuPont
- Klein Karoo Seed Marketing
- ORUWERA
- KCI

12. Somalia

- Barwaaqo General Trading Co.
- Darusalam Seed Co
- Filsan Somalia
- Ikow Agrowit
- Ikow Agritrade